

Remarks

The Office action mailed April 3, 2009, has been reviewed and carefully considered. Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group 1 (claims 1-15, 17-24, 27, 37-40 and 42-46) in response to the restriction requirement.

Applicants also traverse the restriction requirement with respect to Groups 1-4. The Office action asserts that there is no common special technical feature present among the inventions of Groups 1-4. However, it is respectfully submitted that there is a common special technical feature – the use of hop bract tannin. Claim 1 (from Group 1) is directed to a method that includes administering “a therapeutically effective amount of **hop bract tannin**.” Claim 29 (from Group 2) is directed to a method that includes contacting a biological sample with a “**hop bract tannin**.” Claim 41 (from Group 3) is directed to a method that includes administering “a therapeutically effective amount of **hop bract tannin**.” Claim 58 (from Group 4) is directed to a method that includes contacting a bacterial toxin with a “**hop bract tannin**.” Accordingly, the restriction requirement between Groups 1-4 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1, 12, 17, 29, 34, 37, 39, 41 and 44 have been amended to correct typographical or grammatical errors. Claims 44-46 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis. No new matter has been added.

Applicants look forward to receiving an action on the merits. Should there be any questions regarding this application, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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